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Landing

STATE HISTORIC SITE

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JEFFERSON LANDING

Jefferson Landing, one of the few remaining 19th-century river-front landings, was a busy center of commerce in Jefferson City during the mid-1800s. The historic site, located on the south bank of the Missouri River between the Capitol and the Executive Mansion, consists of three buildings — the Lohman Building, the Union Hotel, and the Christopher Maus House — all of which were constructed at a time when riverboat landings were the hub of community activity.

The lands along the Missouri River were the first to be settled in the interior of the state. In 1821, the Missouri General Assembly chose Jefferson City as the site for the permanent seat of government, primarily because of its central location on the river.

The first travelers to Jefferson City probably docked at any convenient spot. In 1839, when James A. Crump built what is now designated as the Lohman Building, he created a logical headquarters for river trade and helped establish this spot as the city's principal river landing.

Crump opened a grocery business in the basement of the west section of the building. He sold the center section to E.B. Cordell and James Dunnica, and the east section to John Yount. The co-owners operated their sections of the basement as warehouses for incoming and outgoing river freight.

Crump leased the upper floors of the building from the three co-owners and, in 1841, opened the Missouri House Hotel. The large and conveniently located hotel became a popular refuge for rivermen, legislators, and townspeople. Both the stage and telegraph companies opened offices in the Missouri House.

The completion of the Pacific Railroad to Jefferson City in 1855 and the arrival of the first train the following year temporarily increased traffic at the river landing. Because Jefferson City was the railway terminus, all freight being transported up river to St. Joseph was transferred from rail cars to steamboats at Jefferson City. Business boomed during the late 1850s as many travelers passed through the city. In response to

the greater demand for hotel accommodations, Captain Charles Maus built a hotel across from the Lohman Building.

Maus and his brother-in-law, Charles Lohman, then bought the east section of the Lohman Building in 1852 and opened a general store. When the partnership disbanded a few years later, Maus expanded the Union Hotel and opened his own store.

Lohman continued operations in his section of the Lohman Building and, in 1862, purchased the remaining two sections. Lohman expanded services and facilities at the building, adding a chain and pulley-type elevator and establishing a ferry service across the Missouri River.

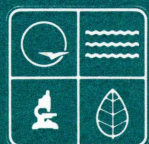
During the landing's heyday, Charles Maus' brother, Christopher, built a home a few yards south of the Union Hotel. The sturdy brick structure provides an excellent example of residential construction of the period.

Maus and Lohman were the principal merchants at the landing during the declining years of steamboating. Steamboat traffic had been diverted away

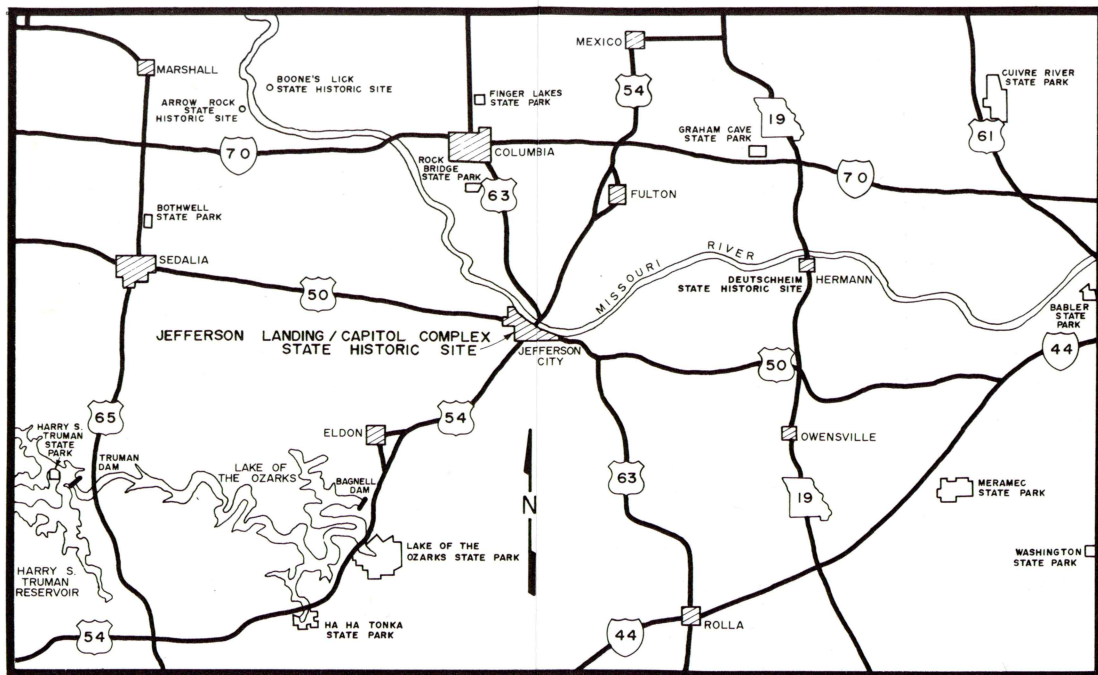
from Jefferson City as the result of railroad expansion after the Civil War. To keep business alive, Charles Maus relocated his store to the High Street business district in 1873; Lohman continued his operations at the Landing until the mid-1870s.

Following the decline of river traffic, the Lohman and Union Hotel buildings were used for storage and as tenements. In the early 1900s, the Tweedie Shoe Company purchased the three buildings that now compose the Jefferson Landing Historic Site and set up a factory and offices in the old landing buildings.

The state of Missouri assumed ownership of the landing area in the early 1960s. When plans were announced to raze the old shoe factory, local preservation groups intervened to save the historic structures. In 1974, the Missouri Department of Natural Resources supervised restoration of the three buildings as part of Missouri's official Bicentennial project. On July 4, 1976, Jefferson Landing State Historic Site was dedicated and opened to the public.



MISSOURI
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
Division of Parks and Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 176
Jefferson City, MO 65102



The Lohman Building visitor center hours are from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. daily.

The Union Hotel gallery hours are from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Jefferson Landing State Historic Site
Jefferson City, MO 65101
314-751-3475

WHAT TO SEE

The Christopher Maus House

Built by Christopher Maus in 1854, the Maus House exemplifies the small, red-brick residences built in Jefferson City during the mid-19th century.

Union Hotel

This building, once known as the Missouri Hotel, was renamed the Union Hotel by Captain Charles Maus in 1865, after he returned to Jefferson City from having served in the Union Army.

The Union Hotel now houses a gallery for exhibits and a meeting room that is available to the public upon request.

Lohman Building

Charles Lohman operated a "boat store" in this building for more than 20 years. A boat store was an important line of business, especially in river towns, because it supplied merchandise for boats as well as general items for townspeople.

The Lohman Building now serves as a visitor center and support facility for the Missouri State Museum.

Other Places of Interest in Jefferson City

Visitors to the capital should take the opportunity to visit the State Capitol, just west of Jefferson Landing. This magnificent white limestone structure houses the legislative chambers, executive offices, splendid works of art, and the Missouri State Museum, which provides a glimpse of the state's proud heritage. The Capitol and the State Museum are open to the public daily. Tours of the Capitol are given daily and may be arranged at the Capitol Information Desk.

Visitors also may tour the Executive Mansion just east of Jefferson Landing. Reservations are necessary; they can be made by calling (314) 751-4141.

The Cole County Historical Society, located across the street from the Mansion, also is open to the public.

